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ABSTRACT

An alignment processing mechanism 10 according to the present invention includes: a conveying mechanism 11 for conveying a substrate W to be processed, an alignment mechanism 12 for aligning the substrate W conveyed by the conveying mechanism 11 to a predetermined direction, and a buffer mechanism 13 for relaying the substrate W from the conveying mechanism 11 to the alignment mechanism 12. The buffer mechanism 13 is adapted to temporarily hold the substrate W conveyed by the conveying mechanism 11, and to pass the temporarily holding substrate W to the alignment mechanism 12 based on a state of the alignment mechanism 12. According to the present invention, the alignment mechanism 12 can be used with greater efficiency in order to achieve a high speed of an alignment process.

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